

As of October 2nd, 2006 it's too early to predict the upcoming spring wildflower bloom but early indicators are hopeful.

The National Weather Service and NOAA have confirmed that this winter/spring will be an "El Nino" year. For Death Valley this means a good chance of the region receiving above average amounts of rainfall.

The Funeral Mountains from Indian Pass to Pyramid Peak experienced a heavy thunderstorm the first week of September. In early October the first winter storm has already brought light to moderate amounts of rain to the southern half of the park.

We will still need a couple of rains of at least a half an inch over the next couple of months followed by another couple of good rain storms in early 2007 for a significant wildflower bloom to develop.

If the park receives the needed rain--at the right time--then peak blooming in the valley could be anywhere from late February through mi-March.

This report will be updated in a couple of months or when conditions change.